

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 335

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Dr. Nathan Ford upon his receipt of the Southern College of Optometry's Lifetime Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nathan Ford of Newport is one such estimable Tennessean who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity during his illustrious career in optometry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford was recently awarded the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern College of Optometry (SCO) in Memphis, the highest award bestowed by the college and presented to SCO graduates who have made a lasting impact on the profession of optometry and the lives of their patients; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in the Del Rio community of Cocke County, Dr. Ford is the tenth of twelve children born to the late John and Anna Davis Ford, and the family was blessed with two more children by adoption; and

WHEREAS, a 1945 graduate of Cocke County High School, Dr. Ford immediately enlisted in the United States Navy and used the benefits of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 to attend and graduate from SCO. He then returned to Newport to commence practice as the first full-time optometrist in his hometown; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford is renowned in his profession and has greatly endeared himself to his colleagues while serving in a variety of offices of the East Tennessee Optometric Society and the Tennessee Optometric Association; and

WHEREAS, high quality, accessible education has long been a particular passion of Dr. Ford's and, from 1952 until 1956, he served on the Cocke County Board of Education, wherein he was instrumental in the consolidation of many of the system's one- and two-room schools; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Dr. Ford was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives; he was reelected to serve the people three more times. He served on the General Health and Welfare and State and Local Government Committees and was a determined, tireless advocate for the good of the people of his district, his profession, and all of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to Cocke County are not limited to the medical and educational fields: Dr. Ford served as Cocke County Economic Development Commission Chairman, the Chamber of Commerce Director, and as a bank director. He is also a sixty-plus year member of the Del Rio Masonic Lodge and the Newport Lions Club, and he once served as the Cocke County Baptist Hospital board chair; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Dr. Ford was named Tennessee's Optometrist of the Year in 1980 and received the Cocke County Education Foundation's prestigious Celebrate Our Successes award in 2010, and

WHEREAS, his professional achievements aside, Dr. Nathan Ford is most grateful for the love and companionship of his wife of almost sixty years, Mary. This exemplary couple are longtime members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and have three children: Beth, Mark, and John; and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford is a genuine inspiration to his family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. His counsel is highly valued by all who are fortunate to know him as he truly epitomizes the ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Dr. Nathan Ford upon his receipt of the Lifetime

Achievement Award from the Southern College of Optometry, thank him for all his good work as a health care professional and as a citizen, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success in all his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.